

REMARKS

Prior to entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 are currently pending in the subject application. By the instant amendment, claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7 (including those of claim 2, from which claim 7 depended). Claims 3, 4 and 16-18 have been amended to modify the claim dependency thereof. Claims 2, 7-9 and 20 have been canceled. Claim 1 is the sole independent claim.

Applicants request the Examiner consider the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 12, 2004.

Applicants request the Examiner indicate the status of the drawings in the present application.

Claims 1, 3-6 and 10-19 are presented to the Examiner for further prosecution on the merits.

A. Introduction

In the outstanding Office Action Made Final, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 13-15 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a and e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,407,435 to Ma et al. (“the Ma et al. reference”), rejected claims 1-6, 13, 14 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,688,724 to Yoon et al. (“the Yoon et al. reference”), and objected to claims 7-12 and 16-18 as containing allowable subject matter.

B. Asserted Anticipation Rejection over the Ma et al. Reference

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 13-15 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a and e) as being anticipated by the Ma et al. reference. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, thereby obviating this rejection. The remaining rejected claims depend, either directly or

indirectly, from claim 1, and are similarly believed to be allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

C. Asserted Anticipation Rejection over the Yoon et al. Reference

In the outstanding Office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 13-15 and 19-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Yoon et al. reference. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of claim 7, which was indicated as containing allowable subject matter, thereby obviating this rejection. The remaining rejected claims depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 1, and are similarly believed to be allowable. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

D. Entry of Amendment Requested

Entry of the above amendment after final is respectfully requested. The amendments to the claims merely incorporate subject matter previously indicated as allowable into all of the pending claims. Therefore, the above amendment reduces issues and consideration thereof does not impose an undue burden on the Examiner.

E. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication that claims 7-9 and 16-18 contain allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. The limitations of claim 7 have now been incorporated into the sole independent claim 1. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are in condition for allowance.

F. Conclusion

Since the cited prior art references neither anticipate nor render obvious the subject invention as presently claimed, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 3-6 and 10-19 are now in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited, and an early and favorable further action upon all the claims is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

LEE & STERBA, P.C.

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Eugene M. Lee #35292
Eugene M. Lee, Reg. No. 32,039

LEE & STERBA, P.C.
1101 WILSON BOULEVARD, SUITE 2000
ARLINGTON, VA 22209
703.525.0978 TEL
703.525.4265 FAX

PETITION and
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT CHARGE AUTHORIZATION

This document and any concurrently filed papers are believed to be timely. Should any extension of the term be required, applicant hereby petitions the Director for such extension and requests that any applicable petition fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

If fee payment is enclosed, this amount is believed to be correct. However, the Director is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.

Any additional fee(s) necessary to effect the proper and timely filing of the accompanying papers may also be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-1645.